

successes or failures or what you plan for the future, the Bible has something directly for you. It is a marvellous book. No one at any time can scan its pages with a reverent spirit without catching something of the uplifting power which emanates from every page.

The ancient Egyptians had a book called the Book of the Dead. A copy of it was placed in the coffin in order that the deceased person might have it with which to plead his cause before the dread court of Osiris.

Our book is not for the dead but for the living and if we heed it in life we will need it not to plead our cause in death. It is not for a table ornament or a family record but for instruction in all the duties of life toward God and man.

It is read today more than ever before in the world and yet not half so much as it ought to be. In this meeting each member can suggest some practical way of using this Book of books.

The writer wrote the following verses in his Bible some time ago. They are reproduced here with the scriptures appended, hoping that those who use these lessons may find the Bible to them the blessed light and help it is to me. The leader can use the references after each line or verse or by number as usually.

To My Bible

Thou blessed book, sweet gift of love!

I turn thy pages o'er and o'er,

I love thy precepts more and more,

As in my life their worth I prove.

Life is a journey, and thou art

(I Peter 2: 11.)

A lamp unto my wandering feet,

(Ps. 119: 105; I Pet. 2: 2)

My daily food and comfort sweet,

(Ps. 119: 50; Rom. 15: 4.)

Thou art my guide and only chart.

(Ps. 73: 24.)

Life is a warfare, and in thee

(I Tim. 6: 12.)

I find my sword and shield and tower

(Eph. 6: 17.)

Of refuge and the promised power,

(Prov. 18: 10.)

To win for aye the victory.

(Ps. 91: 4; Rev. 12: 11.)

Life is a school, and thou, blest book

(II Cor. 5: 19.)

Dost teach me how to understand,

(II Tim. 3: 16; Ps. 19: 7-11.)

Its varied lessons and the Master's hand

(John 5: 39)

Shines out more clear with every look.

(II Cor. 3: 18.)

Life is a field of action. Thou

(John 9: 4.)

Dost teach me how to live most true,

(Ps. 119: 9.)

And how to use my talents too,

(Matt. 25: 14-30)

All for the kingdom here and now.

(Matt. 6: 33.)

But best of all, thy pages shine

(II Pet. 1: 19.)

With light from him who is my life

(John 1: 4.)

And love and all my days are rife

(Gal. 2: 20)

With joy in that sweet life divine.

(John 14: 27.)

Dear Spirit, who inspired the word

Wilt thou illumine every page,

Guide thou my youth, and in mine age,

Still lead me closer to my Lord?

II Pet. 1: 21; John 14: 26; Job. 5: 19; Joel 2: 28;
Jer. 3: 4; II Tim. 3: 15; Ps. 37: 25; II Tim. 4: 7.

Practical questions for discussion in the meeting

1. How can the Bible best be used in winning souls?

2. How can the Bible best be used in comforting the sick?

3. How can one best use the Bible in deciding questions of duty?

4. How can the Bible best be studied for gaining spiritual strength?

5. What effect does the Bible have on civilization?

6. How can one best remember the location of texts in the Bible?

7. What is the best way to mark one's Bible?

8. How can we create a greater love for Bible reading?

Notes

F. B. Meyer says that a Christian's growth in grace can be measured by his love for private Bible study.

H. L. Hastings says "If the sceptical literati of this country after having hunted the heavens and sounded the seas to disprove the inspiration of the Bible, will find a spot on earth ten feet square where woman is respected and virtue extolled and a man can rear and educate his children in decency and honor it will be in order for them to move thither and then air their views."

It is said that in the Psalms alone there is a balm for every heart ache and a fitting expression for every emotion that stirs the soul.

C. F. YODER.

HONORING FATHER AND MOTHER

RUBY C. TELLER

This essential lesson should be learned by all children who wish to do right and be happy. The fifth commandment shows that it is the duty of every child to honor father and mother. And a certain writer has said, "You show me a boy or a girl who is not a good son or daughter, who does not honor father and mother, and I will show you one who will not make a good man or woman."

There are several ways of honoring and dishonoring our parents. Do you know the best way to honor them? It is by obedience. Many of the young people do not like to do that. A merchant advertised for a boy to assist in a store and go on errands. The next day his store was thronged with all kinds of boys, and not knowing which to choose, he advertised again as follows: "Wanted, to assist in a store, a boy who obeys his mother." Only two boys ventured to apply for the situation. May we be like those two boys—obedient.

But we can obey and still not honor a parent! Once a mother was riding on a train with her two children who did not mind her very well. After awhile she opened a basket, and drew out a rope about a yard long and as thick as one's little finger. It had a knot on each end, and she doubled it up, held it before them and shook it at them when she gave a command. The children obeyed instantly and as meekly as lambs. Do you think they honored their mother? No; they honored the rope instead, for fear of punishment. It might be called "rope's end obedience" and it is not good for much because of a wrong motive. We ought to obey them because it is the will of God and because we love them.

At the same time we cannot honor them by disobedience, for the Bible teaches us to obey and be subject to them. We shall regret the dishonor we do to our parents, for

thereby we dishonor our Heavenly Father who expects us to show all possible respect to them. We should take care of our dear parents and do all we can to make them comfortable when they are sick, or aged, or poor. We should always be polite; learn to be pleased and thankful for what they do for us. If we are obliging and do the small courtesies, manifested by tender and loving little acts of attention, we will show how we care for them. By honoring our own fathers and mothers we learn to care for other children's parents and are apt to be kinder for the sake of those we love.

Neither should we complain in fretful tones when they unwillingly disappoint us; but if we ever wear a cheerful countenance we shall be like blessed sunshine in the home. One morning a little boy went to his mother with a broken arrow and begged her to mend it. It was a very handsome one and the pride of his heart, so she did not wonder to see his lip quiver and the tears come into his eyes. "I'll try to fix it, darling," she said, "but I'm afraid I can't do it." He watched her anxiously for a few moments and then said cheerfully: "Never mind, mamma: if you can't fix it, I'll be just as happy without it." That lovely boy truly honored his mother.

When our parents reprove us for a wrong act we should take heed to their words and strive to do as they tell us because they are our best friends and nothing pains them more than to punish us. George Washington, when a mere child formed little manuscript books in which he hoarded his mother's teachings. One of the maxims was this: "Honor and obey your natural parents, altho they be poor." Thus was the foundation of his virtuous character established.

There are many examples of filial devotion. Washington's last act before he left Mt. Vernon was a good one. He visited his aged mother to bid her farewell, and he told her as soon as he had done his duties as president he would hasten back. She mournfully replied: "You will see me no more, for I shall not be long in this world. But you, George, fulfill the high destinies which heaven has assigned you. Go, my son, and may heaven's and your mother's blessing be with you always." Overcome, he leaned his head on her aged shoulder and wept like a little child. That great grand heart which made him so terrible on the battle-field was yet full of the tenderest emotions. Not when he stood in his majestic bearing at the head of the republic he saved, did he appear so great, so worthy of the adoration of men as when he wept and clung to that dear parent.

"What would I not give," said Charles Lamb, "to call my dear mother back to earth for a single day to ask her pardon upon my knees for all those acts by which I grieved her gentle spirit." But after mother and father are dead it is too late. The time for children to show affection and gratitude is along the years while father and mother are living and treading earth's paths. If they then strew thorns for their feet, what